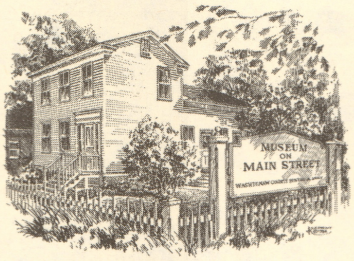
NOVEMBER 2006



IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857

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MUSEUM DIRECTOR
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INFORMATION

Published Seven Times A Year From September-May.

Museum On Main Street
500 N. Main Street at Beakes Street
Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

Phone: 734.662.9092
Email: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Web Site:
www.washtenawhistory.org

Annual dues: January-December individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

RICHARD L. GALANT, PhD

President's Letter

Dear WCHS Member,

The autumn is a wonderful and very special time of year for of each of us I am sure. The holiday season provides us more opportunities to be with our family and friends, to share memories, and to create new owes. It is a time when the fruits of our lives' yearly harvest are being recounted and shared with those closest to us. Now each of our own 2006 histories has almost been completed.

WCHS members have helped support and preserve the rich history of Washtenaw County in several ways during this past year. One has been by their volunteer support. Recently, members have given their time to clean up the garden outside the Museum and tended to the flora life that surrounds it. The white and yellow mums on the Main-Beakes Streets corner now beckon visitors to come in and see our latest exhibition.

Other WCHS members chronicled the county's history with donations to the Society of various artifacts from times before. Over the past year, the Society has received such items as 100-year old lace tablecloth; flapper dresses; musical instruments; and items used in the kitchen. One of the most favored items of visitors to the Museum is a 1920's map of the UM campus, done in a light artistic style, that was created as a fundraiser for the construction of the Michigan League.

Finally, the Society has received monetary donations. Funds are used to maintain the Museum and support the exhibits that are presented in the Museum.

For all of this year's support, the Society is must thankful for these contributions. If you would like to contribute, either as a volunteer or donor of artifacts or financially, the box below provides information on how you can make 'history' with WCHS.

WAYS OF SUPPORTING WCHS

- Volunteer to help the Society with a special task, i.e., serve as a docent/greeter
- Donate former family or business artifacts
- Provide Financial Support through:
  - Remember WCHS in your will when making estate plans
  - Make a matching gift with your employer. Contact your employer to see if the Society qualifies.
  - Paid-up life insurance that no longer serves its original purpose
  - Property may be donated
  - Gifts of Securities

Be sure to confer with a financial advisor or your tax consultant before making any donation decision.

You can contact WCHS about ways to support at 734.662.9092 or e-mail: wchs-500@ameritech.net

Sesquicentennial Plans

2007 will be the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Washtenaw County Historical Society. Plans are in the works to celebrate with year-long activities. Sue Kosky is chairing the festivities.

GRACE SHACKMAN

Germans That Came to Washtenaw County in the 1800s

On Sunday, October 15, 2006, Grace Shackman, a local historian and author, told Washtenaw County Historical Society members and guests at the Glacier Hills Retirement Community about her research on the Germans that came to Washtenaw County in the 1800s. She employed PowerPoint to project images on the large screen.

In 1825, Conrad Bissinger was the first German to come to Washtenaw County. Shortly thereafter he left the area only to return later and thus qualifies as the first German in the county. By 1829, large numbers of Germans began to arrive, many via the Erie Canal. The first families to stay were the Manns in town and the Allmendingers and Schillers just out of town.

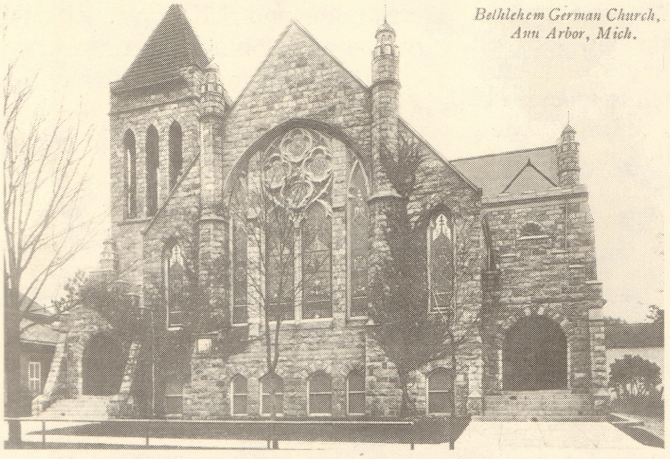
Top Left: Early German settlers, Emanuel Mann and wife.

Top Right: First German church just west of Ann Arbor on Jackson Road. The inset is Pastor Friedrich Schmid.

Bottom Left: Bethlehem Church, built in 1845, at the corner of West Washington and South First Streets.

Zion Lutheran Church, 1870s, at the corner of South Fifth Avenue and East Washington Street.

By 1831, the German families wanted a German church. Pastor Friedrich Schmid, a graduate of the seminary in Basal, Switzerland, was sent, in 1833, from Stuttgardt, Germany, to minister to the German families. He founded the first German church in Michigan just west of Ann Arbor on Jackson Road.



Top Left: New Bethlehem Church, begun in 1896, on South Fourth Avenue.

Top Right: Home of Karl and Fredericke Rominger on 215 South Fifth Avenue.

Bottom Right: Typical German-style interior of a home.

Bottom Left: Ann Arbor Organ Works owned by David Allmendinger.

Right: Ann Arbor Bottling Works, 122 East Washington Street, W. Fred Schlanderer, prop.

Most of the families were Lutherans, with a few German Methodists and some Catholics. Pastor Schimd founded many churches in the county and as far away as Saginaw. To be a member of his church, one only had to be German and Christian.

In 1845, the German community, which had been steadily growing, built the Bethlehem Church at the corner of West Washington and South First Streets.

In 1847, the German Methodists organized a church on the corner of Jefferson and Fourth Streets. Then in the 1870s, because of a disagreement, the Bethlehem congregation split and some formed the Zion Lutheran Church which they built at the corner of South Fifth Avenue and East Washington Street.

Beginning in 1896, the remaining members of the Bethlehem group spent twenty years building a new church on South Fourth Avenue.

Germans arrived in waves, usually for economic reasons or because of war, draft or politics. Karl and Fredericke Rominger left Germany after his involvement in a failed 1848 Revolution. They settled in Ann Arbor and Karl was the first German doctor. Their daughter, Marie, was the first female bookkeeper in town. Although the houses were built American-style, the interiors were typically German. The gardens were planted to reflect

Wagner's second blacksmith shop on Ashley Street, later rented to blacksmith and band leader, Henry Otto.

The Germania Club sold insurance but mainly served as a social center. Members met on the top floor located on West Washington Street. Today it is the Earle Restaurant.

Plays presented in the Swabish-dialect at the Schwaben Verein located on South Ashley Street.

Bottom Left: The Lyra Male Chorus conducted by Professor Reuben Kempf.

their homeland with crops such as cabbage, mulberries and grapes.

The newcomers needed money or a backer to get here and become established. Often someone with a business here would send for help for the business or home. Many were involved in trades: bakers, blacksmiths, merchants, manufacturers, jewelers, restauranteurs and brewers.

The German families tried to recreate the German life-style with music and clubs. They kept their German language in their schools, newspapers, churches and many busineses until after World War I.

Although the men fled their homeland to avoid the wars and revolutions, they did not hesitate to enlist in the American Civil War and World Wars I and II.

Tuebingen has been Ann Arbor's Sister City since 1965. The area with its hills is like the Ann Arbor area. Two years ago some of the officials from Tuebingen came to Ann Arbor to plan the 2005 visit of Ann Arbor officials to celebrate the 40th anniversary of sisterhood. About a dozen Ann Arborites traveled to Tuebingen for the celebrations last year.

Below: Henry Otto's Ann Arbor Band.

Top Left: The Steuben Guards were the first local company to leave for the Civil War.

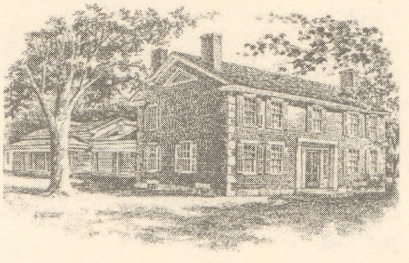
Center Left: Student soldiers of the Second World War at the Old German Restaurant.

Bottom Left: Tuebingen, Germany. Photo by Stanley Shackman

Top Right: Allmendinger store in Tuebingen, Germany. Photo by Stanley Shackman

AROUND THE COUNTY

Upcoming Events



Annual Christmas Sing
Friday, December 15, 2006
7 p.m.
Dexter Area Historical Society Museum
Inverness, Dexter

20th Annual Antique Show
Friday, January 19
11-7 p.m
and Saturday, January 20, 2007
9-5 p.m.
Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline 734-769-2219 or www.salinehistory.org. More than 50 juried dealers from far and near with a variety of quality antiques in two heated buildings. Fund Raiser for Saline Area Historical Society's two museums.

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.
Sunday, January 28, 2007
1:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium. Mark Harvey, State Archivist of Michigan, will lecture on "Genealogy of a House" followed by a class "Understanding Our Ancestor's Political Activities" by Larry Kestenbaum, Washtenaw County Clerk.

Valentine Teas
Saturday, February 10 and Sunday, Februay 11, 2007
Seatings at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m..
Kempf House Museum, 312 S. Division, Ann Arbor 734-994-4898 or www.kempfhousemuseum.org Experience a traditional Victorian tea in a house museum setting.

Upcoming Events (cont.)

Bolcom & Morris and Friends
Friday, February 23, 2007,
8 p.m.
Kempf House Museum, 312 S. Division, Ann Arbor, 734-994-4898 or www.kempfhousemuseum.org. Experience an evening of music in a house museum setting. Reservations accepted after January 1, 2007

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County,
Sunday, February 25, 2007
1:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium
Xavier Allen, local historical re-enactor and storyteller, will lecture on "The War of 1812-A Perspective from Upper Canada" followed by a class "War of 1812 History and Ancestors" by Carolyn Griffin and a panel of members.

DECEMBER 2, 2006 TO JANUARY 17, 2007

Lights, Ornaments and Trees

This exhibit at the Museum on Main Street covers the use of lights, ornaments and trees popular in this county and this country from 1900 to the 1960s. Trees, ornaments and lights from the collection and on loan will be highlighted as well as reproductions of ornaments not readily available. The different periods of holiday decoration will be presented by use of the Society's collection of toys, clothing and dollhouses. We will feature some of our new acquisitions in this exhibit. This exhibit was researched with the help of our new volunteer, Carolyn Mitchell.

Our open house will be held on Sunday, December 10th, 2006 at 2:00 pm with a presentation about "Christmas Collectables" by certified appraiser of antiques, Dale Sirkle. Dale will talk about our display as well as bring examples of lights, trees and ornaments from his own collection. This talk is open to the public and all are welcome.

Glo Ray lights

Colors: The history of the colors of Christmas date back to the "Paradise Tree" of 11th century Europe. The color white represented Innocence, Red (the apple) knowledge and green the fir tree.

Ornaments: The first account we have of a decorated tree with ornaments in a home was 1605 in Strasbourg, Germany. The use of ornaments on a real tree spread in Germany with cookies, bread and nuts serving as decoration. Small gifts also made their way to the branches of these "Sugar Trees."

Trees: The use of the Christmas tree was brought with German immigrants to the United States. In the 1880s, a *Ladies Home Journal* cover of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (German) caught the social eye of the public and decorated trees became "the thing."

The glass ornaments of Lausha, Germany were seen by F.W. Woolworth who brought them to his Five and Dime stores in the early 1900s. The appeal of these colorful glass ornaments took hold with the American public.

Lights: Christmas trees were rarely lighted in America before 1900 by either candles or electricity. Some families in large cities used candles or glass candle cups (also called Fairy Lights) for decoration. The tree was

kept in a room behind closed doors until Christmas Eve. The candles were lit and only then was the door opened so that the children could see the tree.

Lighting a tree with candles or electricity wasn't common even during the prosperous Roaring Twenties. Only after World War II did a lighted Christmas tree become universal in America.

Early Electric Christmas Lighting in America

The world's first practical light bulb was invented by Thomas Edison in 1879. In 1882, an associate of his, Edward Johnson, is credited with electrically lighting a Christmas tree for the first time. The tree was set up in the parlour of his New York City home in the first section of that city to be wired for electricity.

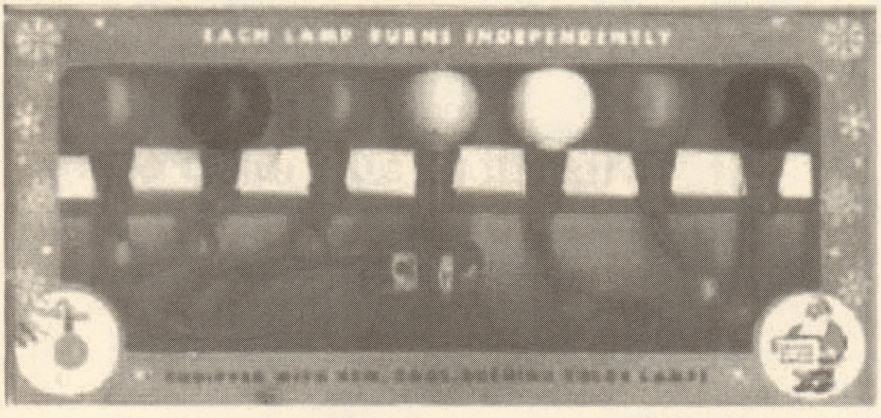
In 1895, President Grover Cleveland displayed the first Christmas tree lighted electrically in the White House. It was a magnificent tree with more than 100 multicolored lights. This event generated enough publicity that members of "high society" began hosting Christmas tree parties. This remained a pastime for the rich since a typical lighted tree cost upwards of $300 (over $2000 today), including a generator and the services of a wireman.

Electric Christmas Lights 1900-1920

Early homes were wired for ceiling or wall lighting only, and the only way to tap into the electric power circuit was through a light fixture socket. Strings of lights, or festoons, were attached to heavy porcelain and later, composition plastic sockets. "Lamp" was the term used in Edison's time for all forms of electric lights (light bulb is a fairly recent term). The "lamps" in each festoon were pear-shaped clear glass or clear glass painted in various colors. Only more expensive lamps were made of colored glass, and some were "frosted" by dipping clear glass in acid. Later lamps were produced in globe shapes.

World War I closed the import market to the United States. Since electric Christmas tree lights were becoming popular in the United States, an enterprising man named Louis Szel went to Japan in 1917 to start the industry there and teach the technique to laborers.

Concurrently, the General Electric Company began developing filaments made of a fragile metal called "tungsten" for household light bulbs around 1910. This material was superior to carbon—it burned cooler and longer, used less current, produced a whiter light, and provided consistent light output from lamp to lamp. General Electric called these lamps "Mazda" after the Persian god of light, Athura Mazda, and they became the standard for the industry. Around 1920, General Electric commissioned the famous painter, Maxfield Parrish, to create advertising for the Mazda lights.



String of round Christmas lights

The Roaring Twenties, 1921-1929

The American Christmas tree lighting came into its own in the early part of the 1920s. The public embraced the idea of lighting trees electrically, and many more towns and cities were wired for electricity. By 1930, most homes were wired for the now standard two-bladed wall plugs, making decorating with electric lights more convenient.

In tune with the times, General Electric and Edison Electric sponsored many "decorating with color-light" contests in an effort to increase sales of the new product. The strategy worked, and within several years communities across the country were holding competitions at Christmas.

The Depression Years, 1930-1940

By 1930, Americans were feeling the full effect of the stock market crash in 1929. Most people had little or no money for unnecessary luxuries such as Christmas tree lights, so they either went without or made do with old sets.

As the Depression dragged on, Christmas lights sales were half of what they had been at the beginning of the decade. Lighting companies introduced a large variety of new designs and novelty lights in an attempt to spur sales. Most of these lights were of Japanese manufacture, with one remarkable exception. About 1932, the Matchless Company introduced Matchless Stars, beautiful solid

glass ornaments surrounding a brighter than normal lamp. The glass points and crystal center were imported from Czechoslovakia and assembled in the United States. Due to their high cost and economic conditions, they were only moderate sellers. After World War II, when Czech glass was no longer available, they were manufactured with Lucite until the Matchless Company ceased producing them in the 1950s.

The War Years, 1941-1948

In October 1941, NOMA issued their product catalogue featuring several new products, including an illuminated tree top angel. The company was set for a heavy selling year when disaster struck. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base in Pearl Harbor, and the next day President Roosevelt declared war on Japan.

The war had an immediate and drastic effect on Christmas light manufacturing and sales. Most American companies turned their production lines over to whatever they could produce that would help the war effort. Metals of all types were in short supply, and no electric Christmas lights were made during the war years. Sets in warehouse storage were sold as long as they lasted, and after that Americans made do with old sets just as they had done during the Depression.

Artwork used on boxes became more somber, using less color to save on precious supplies. In addition, wartime boxes were of thinner construction than those made earlier

After the War Years, 1946-1950

With the world at peace, American Christmas celebrations became grander and grander. Lighting companies took a year to achieve full production again, but by 1946 they were able to offer many innovative lighting outfits, plus old standbys.

The most famous innovation of the period was the bubble light. Although they were invented in the late 1930s, they could not be produced until 1946 due to the Depression and World War II. NOMA first mass-marketed their Bubble Lites in 1946. The lights consisted of a glass tube filled with a chemical called methylene chloride and a plastic base that holds a light bulb in close contact with the tube. The units bubble whenever heated, and the chemical has such a low boiling point that it will even bubble from the heat of a hand or sunlight from a window.

The 1960s

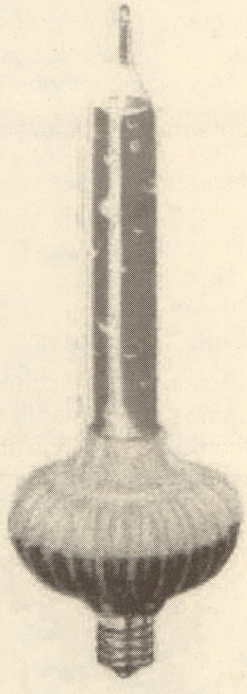
The trend toward ever larger and grander Christmas celebrations continued through the 1960s. Two noteworthy innovations occurred during this era, miniature or "fairy" lights and aluminum Christmas trees.

"Fairy" lights were introduced from Italy in the late 1950s and swept the country in the 1960s. The design and construction improved until they became the accepted form of Christmas lighting to this day.

In 1959, the Aluminum Specialty Company introduced the first aluminum Christmas tree. One of their toy sales managers, Tom Gannon, came up with the idea and it was an immediate success. Other companies soon began to produce aluminum trees which were popular until the late 1960s. Due to the extreme danger of using electric lights on highly-conductive aluminum tree branches, rotating multi-colored floodlights, called color wheels, were sold to illuminate the trees.

The trees lost popularity just as quickly as they had gained it, due in part to a well-received television cartoon, the Charlie Brown Christmas Show in 1965. Charlie Brown refused to buy an aluminum Christmas tree, and the American public decided that he was right.

Other decorations include lighted figures and novelty items that were introduced to the American public almost as soon as Christmas lights. Some examples are candles, wreaths, angels, and Santa Claus, among other figures. Lighted table top trees were also an important line for most Christmas lighting companies from the late 1930s and throughout the 1940s and 1950s.



Bubble light

Membership

The membership cycle for the **Washtenaw County Historical Society** runs from January 1 through December 31. The 2007 membership mailing will be put into the post office the first week of January.

In 2006, WCHS had 15 Life Members; three Honorary Members; 21 Patrons; four Business Patrons; seven Business Members; 397 Members and nine who chose to be donors only. They receive our newsletter, *Washtenaw Impressions*, seven times yearly and post cards notifying them of seven upcoming general meetings that feature a speaker, knowledgeable in some aspect of historical interest. These meetings are held in various venues in the county.

To determine whether you are a current member check your mailing label. Members and member donors are noted thusly: Member 2006 and Donors appear as 2006. In addition, we mail our newsletter to other historical societies, schools, city and/or county officials and newspapers. We welcome new members and also welcome suggestions about how we can improve our contacts with prospective members.

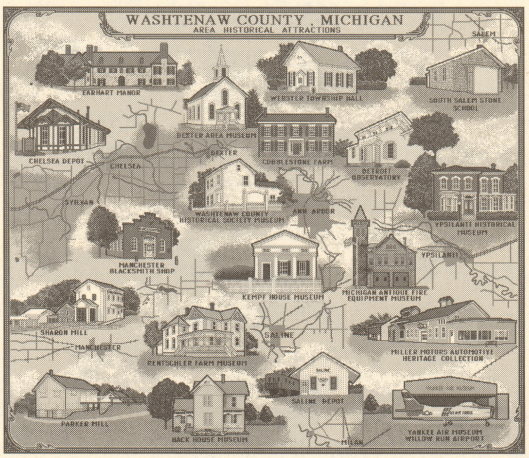
Pauline Walters
Membership Chair

Seeking a Membership Assistant

We are looking for a person with good computer skills to volunteer several hours at times during the year to assist and to learn how to do the membership procedures. The busy time is January and less time is needed the rest of the year. Contact: Pauline Walters – cell: 734-223-8357, home: 734-663-2379.

Historical Gift Suggestions

The Washtenaw County Historical Society has a few. The throws are $50 each and are available at the Museum on Main Street and from other historical society groups in Washtenaw County.



These throws are woven in North Carolina of 100% cotton and are 60 inches by 50 inches. There are 19 images of buildings of groups that are members of the Washtenaw County Consortium. Mailing by US Priority Mail is available for $8.00 each. For additional information: www.washtenawhistory.org and click on GiftShop or call 734 / 662-9092.

Our Museum Shop has many interesting items available for purchase:

Post cards — Tiny hand-made bells
Note cards — Ornaments

A variety of books, some of which are:

ANN ARBOR IN THE 19TH CENTURY. by Grace Shackman A pictorial history of Ann Arbor. 128 pp. $20

ANN ARBOR IN THE 20TH CENTURY. by Grace Shackman A pictorial history of Ann Arbor. 128 pp. $20

ANN ARBOR OBSERVED. by Grace Shackman. Compilation of *Observer* articles. 271 pp. $20

JEWISH ANN ARBOR. by Richard Adler & Ruth Adler. 128 pp. $20

BIRDSEYE MAP OF ANN ARBOR, MI-1880. 24 by 30 in. Rolled & in tube. $10

HISTORIC BUILDINGS: *Ann Arbor, MI.* by Marjorie Reade & Susan Wineberg. 232 pp. $15

***LOST ANN ARBOR*:** by Susan Wineberg. Buildings that have been demolished. 128 pp. $20

SALINE: *A Pictorial history.* by Susan Kosky. 128 pp $20

THE INDIANS OF WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI. 1927 by W. B. Hinsdale. 68 pp. $7

YPSILANTI IN THE 20TH CENTURY. by James Thomas Mann. 128 pp. $20

YPSILANTI, A HISTORY IN PICTURES. by James Thomas Mann. 128 pp. $20

THE ANN ARBOR RAILROAD. by D.C. Jesse Burkhardt. 128 pp. $20

ARGOMANIA – A LOOK AT ARGUS CAMERAS AND THE COMPANY THAT MADE THEM. by Henry J. Gambino. 222 pp. $40

THE WINDOWS OF ST. ANDREWS. By H. M. Hildebrandt. 48 pp. $25

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SUNDAY • 2 PM
FEBRUARY 18, 2007
"ONE ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES"
SPEAKER • LINDA CHAPMAN
COBBLESTONE FARM BARN
2781 PACKARD ROAD
ANN ARBOR
INFORMATION • 734.662.9092

Join Us at Our Sunday Programs

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
General Meetings: September 2006 - May 2007

Sunday, 2/18/07	**ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES**
2:00 PM	Cobblestone Farm Barn, 2871 Packard
Sunday, 3/18/07	**CARNEGIE LIBRARY PROJECTS**
2:00 PM	Ann Arbor District Library, 350 S. Fifth Av
Sunday, 4/15/07	**DIXBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
2:00 PM	Dixboro United Methodist Church, near Plymouth Rd & Cherry Hill Rd, Ann Arbor
May 2007	**ANNUAL WCHS MEETING**
TBA	Potluck supper / election of officers

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum on Main Street *A Museum of County Life*
500 North Main Street at Beakes & E. Kingsley Streets
(734) 662-9092 / eMail: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Web: www.washtenawhistory.org
Mailing Address: **Post Office Box 3336**
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 through December 31, 2006

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Vice President
Judith Chrisman
Recording Secretary
Immediate Past President
Pauline V. Walters
Corresponding Secretary
Patricia W. Creal
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Harriet A. Birch
Hon. Julie Creal
Donald Cameron Smith, MD

MUSEUM DIRECTOR
Alice Cerniglia

ADVISORS

Ina Hanel-Gerdenich
David LaMoreaux
Thomas F. Mich, PhD
Louisa Pieper

Society members have helped support and preserve the rich history of Washtenaw County in several ways during this past year. Volunteers worked to keep the garden in shape, continue to sort materials accumulated over the years, develop our monthly programs and publish transcriptions of the talks in our newsletter, *Impressions*.

Museum Director, Alice Cerniglia, designed and mounted three new exhibits in addition to THE SEWING ARTS which extended from November 2005 to mid-January 2006. The first exhibit of 2006 which ran from mid-February through May was THE EAST DELHI BRIDGE LEGACY. That was followed by THE FLAPPER ERA and MODERN TIMES: 1920's WASHTENAW COUNTY which ran from July through mid-September. Then, in collaboration with the psychiatry department of the University of Michigan, the exhibit from October through mid-November displayed artifacts and information relating to the centennial of that department at the University of Michigan. At the end of 2006 we mounted the CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, ORNAMENTS and TREES exhibit.

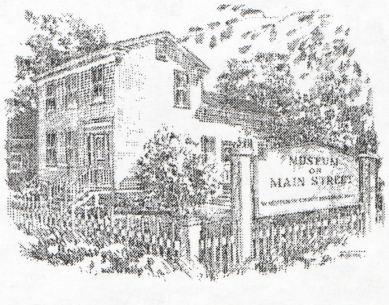
Our Society continues to participate in the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium twenty-seven units with historical attractions that featured a *Passport to History* which began in July 2006 and runs through June 2007. Participants are encouraged to visit as many locations throughout the year and those visiting a dozen places receive a small gift; those visiting 15 locations are eligible for a drawing for a $50 gift certificate at one of the museums.

The Society looks forward to continued success in our endeavors and good relationships with our members and friends. Your interest and loyalty are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Galant

Richard L. Galant



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT
January 1 – December 31, 2006

BEQUEST COMMITTEE *Tom Freeman*

The bequest committee was established by the Washtenaw County Historical Society Board of Directors in late 2001 to manage the receipt of the bequest from the Doris Anna Bach Estate. The assets comprising the Bequest Fund are managed according to the Bequest Fund Guidelines, as established by the Board of Directors of the Washtenaw County Historical Society. In addition, the Board of Directors has engaged the firm of AXA Advisors, LLC to provide investment management services related to the Bequest Fund.

The Bequest Fund Guidelines require the Bequest Committee to provide monthly reports on the status of the investments in the Bequest Fund to the Board of Directors and annually to the members of the Society. In response to the requirement to report annually on the status of the investments in the Bequest Fund, the Bequest Committee submits the following:

WCHS ACCOUNT
ACTITIVY SUMMARY
January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006

Beginning Value as of 01/01/06:	$686,996.00
Additions:	0.00
Withdrawals:	(20,000.00)
Dividends / Interest	37,483.07
Change in Investment Value:	31,009.06
Ending Value as of 12/31/06:	$735,488.13

DONATIONS from ESTATES *Patty Creal*

The Society has received bequests from two non-current members, Fred Schmid and Emma Schmit and a very substantial bequest from the estate of member, Charles Sawyer.

COLLECTIONS *Judy Chrisman*

Work continues on organizing the collection. It is a slow but rewarding process. Getting the best use of the space available and still having artifacts easily accessible is a challenge especially for small items.

The computer program search possibilities have made it much easier to find display items appropriate for each exhibition. We can search by keyword, by person, by specific category or item. Once artifacts to be used are decided upon, we can print lists that tell us where to find them.

In the past year new additions to our collection were donated by John and Barbara Stratman, Susan Wineberg, Marie Panchuk, Cedric Richner, Robert J. Miller, Robert Greenough, Fabian Beltran, Earnest Griffin, Donald Zekany, Al Gallup, Sandra Cole, Eugene and Agnes Hannahs, Thomas Scott, Douglas Kelley, Mildred North, Julia Henshaw, Susan Bender Burd, Holde Borcherts, L. D. Hieber, Jr., Mary Guinn, Jennifer Dougherty for Scott Civil Engineering Company, Joan Black for JP Morgan, Herbert Spencer, Barbara Smith, Patty Creal and Charles, James & Thomas Wilkins, Phyllis Rose, Edith Bookstein, and Cynthia Yao. Some teachers from Angell School donated maps and other display items no longer used at the school and Kempf House Museum transferred an item to us.

GARDEN

Annuals (pre-1900) were planted in the garden in the spring. Nature's Garden Center of Saline donated three bags of mulch and five boxwood bushes to replace those that did not survive the winter. Master Gardener Lillian Ferguson led volunteers in a massive fall cleanup of the Museum grounds.

FUNDRAISING

In 2006 our endeavor was a three-part fan that was mailed to our members and friends. In addition, several members/friends contributed more than one thousand dollars to the Museum Fund in response to assistance with their genealogy recording.

GIFT SHOP *Susan Kosky*

We have added new items to the Gift Shop this year. New books include Ann Arbor Observed by Grace Shackman, Jewish Ann Arbor by Richard and Ruth Adler, Another Ann Arbor by Lola Jones and Carol Gibson and the Rentschler Farm Cookbook by the Rentschler family of Saline. Seasonal items such as Christmas ornaments and toys are added each year. Maps, postcards and items related to the current exhibit are always in demand. A goal for 2007 is to provide more display space. We try to include history related items from all areas of Washtenaw County and are always open to suggestions.

ENDOWMENT *Jay Snyder*

The Endowment Fund is one of two funds of this general type which the Society maintains. It is the smaller of the two funds and the older, dating back to 1999. The principal of this fund accumulates slowly from many individual contributions donated annually. In year 2006 these contributions totaled $1,500.

The Endowment Fund Committee, with the help of AXA Advisors, LLC, evaluates the financial markets and recommends which securities should be purchased with the contributions received. On December 31, 2006 the total value of the securities in the Endowment Fund was $19,646.

The Society Bylaws provide that: "All income from the Endowment Fund principal shall be reinvested in the Endowment Fund until the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, determines that the income may be used. When Endowment Fund income is used, it shall be used in accordance with this document, and only for capital projects. A capital project is one in which the physical result is expected to last for five (5) years or longer."

MEMBERSHIP *Pauline Walters*

The membership cycle coincided with the fiscal cycle and runs from January through December. In 2006 the Society had a total of 504 members and donors. Members: 402; Patrons: 23; Life Members: 16; Business: 8; Business Patrons: 4 and Honorary: 3. There were 46 that chose only to donate to one of the Society's funds and 204 members made donations in addition to dues.

Post card reminders are mailed prior to the seven monthly General Meetings to members and donors.

NEWSLETTER

We published six issues of the *Impressions* from February 2006 through November 2006..

PROGRAM *Ralph Beebe*

The programs for 2006 were: February 19 at Cobblestone Farm Barn, Grace Shackman and Patricia Majher spoke about *COBBLESTONE STRUCTURES of WASHTENAW COUNTY* in a joint meeting with the Cobblestone Farm Association; March 19 at University Commons, Jeff Mortimer told us about *NAME ORIGINS of LOCAL STREETS/ROADS*; April 23 at a joint meeting with the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Judith Chrisman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the *HISTORY of THE WASHTENAW COUNTY SOCIETY* and Marcia McCrary also used PowerPoint to relate the *HISTORY of THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of WASHTENAW COUNTY* at the Education Center of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital; September 17 at the David Byrd Center on Lohr Road, Letitia Byrd spoke about *THE DAVID BYRD CENTER*; October 15 at Glacier Hills Retirement Community, Grace Shackman used PowerPoint to tell the story of *THE GERMAN CONNECTION IN WASHTENAW COUNTY*; November 19 at the Ypsilanti District Library on Whitaker Road, Louisa Pieper told of *THE EARLY HISTORY of ANN ARBOR* using slides from her vast collection.

Washtenaw County Historical Society
Income and Expenses
January through December 2006

	Jan - Dec 06
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Activity Income	2,113.95
Bequest	19,231.70
Donations	8,661.00
Endowment	1,469.00
Fundraising	5,770.00
Interest / Dividend	21,849.56
Membership Dues	9,691.00
Memorials	125.00
Postage Repayment	60.62
Shop Sales	2,670.00
Total Income	71,641.83
Expense	
Accounting Fees	420.00
Activity Expense	165.00
Bank Charge	88.20
Board expenses	800.00
Contractor Fees	1,080.00
Dues & Memberships	440.00
Education Expense	66.99
Fees	77.50
Fundraising expense	2,090.33
Grounds	1,416.58
Impressions	7,345.72
Insurance	2,461.75
Memb. Drive	420.03
Membership	292.00
Money Fund redemption	75.00
Museum Collections	1,160.77
Office Equiptment	924.25
Office Supplies	1,154.28
Payroll Expenses	24,080.77
Program Expenses	1,451.91
Repairs & Maintance	703.72
Security System	324.00
Shop Inventory	482.69
Telephone	1,220.91
Utilities	5,700.24
Total Expense	54,442.64
Net Ordinary Income	17,199.19
Net Income	**17,199.19**

Respectfully submitted
Patricia M Neal

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Membership runs from January through December with letters being mailed in mid-January.

* died 2006

Donors receive a thank you note / tax deduction letter.

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$1,000

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JAMNICK, Ruth Ann
Ypsilanti, MI
JENSEN, Jane
JOHNSON, Johanna Aprill
JUDSON, Grace
KATO, Rich
KESTENBAUM, Lawrence
KINCAID, Wilfred
KRAUSE, Eugene & Jane
KRICK, James & Barbara
KROLL, Dorine
KUEHNLE, Gary
Chelsea, MI
LaHOTE, Randy
LANE, Stephen A
LEVENICK, Richard & Patricia
LIRONES, Mary
Saline, MI
LUTTON, Elizabeth
MAJOR, Nancy J
MALACOS, Mary G
McALLISTER, Nancy
McCRARY, Marcia
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McWILLIAMS, Robert & Kathryn
MEADE, Catherine & Nelson
MEREDITH, Ann
MILLER, Robert Edwin
MOHAI, Caroline & Paul
MOSS, Cruse & Virginia Patton
MULL, Carol E
NEIDHARDT, Elizabeth
NISSEN, Eugene
OLSON Jr, Charles & Constance
OLSON, Harris & Doris
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OLSON-FORREST, Barbara V
O'NEILL, Maxine
OSTAFIN, Eleanor H
PECKHAM, Susanne
PETERIK, Donald * & Caroline
PRICE, Lawrence F
PRINCE, William & Marlene
REACH, Helen
READE, Maxwell & Marjorie
REAL, Tamara & Carl Rinne
REES, Elisabeth J
RICHARDS, Donald
RICHART, Betty
RIGAN, Karwyn
ROCCO, Peter & Kay
RODRIGUEZ, Carol A
ROLOFF MD, Dietrich
ROOT, William
ROSS, Kathleen A
RUSTEN, June A
SAGER, David & Karyn
SAMUELS, Allen J & Olivia J
SCHMID, Bernard & Arlene
SCHNEEBERGER, Jeannette
Ft Collins, CO
SCHROEDER, Anna M
SCHULTZ, Carolyn B
SELLERS, Mary Ann
SHAW, Eleanor A
SHELDON, Clifford & Ingrid
SHERZER, John & Kathleen
SILVENNOINEN, Sally
SINGAL, Mitchell
SMITH, Nina & Scott
Whitmore Lk, MI
SNYDER, Elsie Dyke & Jay
STAEBLER, Donald G
STAIGER, David & Ann
STANTON, Jane
STEBBINS, Kathryn
STEWARD, Cyndy & Rob
Saline, MI
STULBERG, Tom
SUITS, Lynn M
SWISHER, John & Elizabeth
Dexter, MI
TAMRES, Francoise
THAYER, Stuart
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THEIS, Lois
TURNER, A H & Jan
UNTERBURGER, Mary Lou
VAN APPLEDORN, Suzanne
WARNER, Lyn
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WARNER, Robert M
WATSON, Lois Elaine
WEISFELD, Zelma H
WEST, Marian s
WHITE, Jerold
WHITE, Marilyn J
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WILLIAMS, George W & Patricia
WILLIAMS, Nancy
WILSON, Dorothy Novy
WRIGHT, Fran
WRIGHT, Phyllis B
WURTZ, Robert & Betty
YAO, Cynthia